

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kelly Bailey on January 9, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, last line, replace the period with a comma and insert starting with the next line,  
-- wherein each of said plurality of sterilization cases includes a front wall, a rear wall, and two opposing side walls, each said drawer including a side wall, each said front wall, rear wall, opposing side walls, and side wall of said drawer defines a plurality of holes configured for permitting sterilization of at least one surgical instrument contained in a respective said drawer. -  
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Claim 8, last line, replace the period with a comma and insert starting with the next line,  
-- wherein each of said plurality of sterilization cases includes a front wall, a rear wall, and two opposing side walls, each said drawer including a side wall, each said front wall, rear wall, opposing side walls, and side wall of said drawer defines a plurality of holes configured for permitting sterilization of at least one surgical instrument contained in a respective said drawer. -  
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Claim 18, last line, replace the period with a comma and insert starting with the next line, -- wherein each of said plurality of sterilization cases includes a front wall, a rear wall, and two opposing side walls, each said drawer including a side wall, each said front wall, rear wall, opposing side walls, and side wall of said drawer defines a plurality of holes configured for permitting sterilization of at least one surgical instrument contained in a respective said drawer. -

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Claim 22 has been changed to depend from claim 8.

Claims 31-33 have been canceled.

Claim 34, line 3, "fully" has been deleted.

Claim 35, line 3, "fully" has been deleted.

Claim 36, line 3, "fully" has been deleted.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Stephen J. Castellano/ whose telephone number is 571-272-4535. The examiner can normally be reached on increased flexibility plan (IFP).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony D. Stashick can be reached on 571-272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Stephen J. Castellano/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3781

sjc